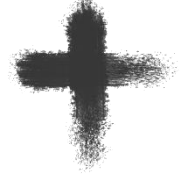




*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
*March 08 - 14, 2021 – **Third Week of Lent***



Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return!



Welcome to the ninth (and final) week of the 3rd quarter, the second week of March,
& the third week of Lent. Wow. Times flies when you are having fun!

I invite you to reflect on the following quotation this week:



*Listen to the sermon of the daffodil in
Founders Circle*

"Let all creation help you to praise
God. Give yourself the rest you
need. When you are walking
alone, listen to the sermon
preached to you by the flowers,
the trees, the shrubs, the sky, the
sun and the whole world. Notice
how they preach to you a sermon
full of love, of praise of God, and
how they invite you to proclaim
the greatness of the one who has
given them being."

— St. Paul of the Cross ---

Mon, Mar 08 (F G A B)

- **This Day in History:** In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew members, loses contact with air traffic control less than an hour after taking off from Kuala Lumpur then veers off course and disappears. Despite a massive air-and-sea search effort for the Beijing-bound Boeing 777, investigators have failed to find any trace of the aircraft or determine why it vanished.
- **Did You Know:** On July 16, 1916, Louisiana State Legislature granted Saint Paul's official recognition as a College, with the authority to confer degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Sciences, and Master of Arts. No degrees, however, were ever conferred, but the Act remains on the books today and has never been revoked.
- **Be Nasty Day:** SPS will NOT observe this day!
- **Golf:** SPS at Oak Knoll
- **Baseball:** 8th v. Rummel (double header)

Tue, Mar 09 (President's Assembly; C D E F)

- **TDIH: In 1916**, Poncho Villa raids United States. This matters to SPS. What I've printed here is a repeat, but it's a foundational story – in our history and God's plan -- and needs to be read yearly.



From the History Channel's "This Day in History": ***Poncho Villa Raids U.S.***

On March 9, 1916, several hundred Mexican guerrillas commanded by Francisco "Poncho" Villa cross the U.S.-Mexican border and attack the small border town of Columbus, New Mexico.... President Woodrow Wilson orders the U.S. Army into Mexico to capture the rebel leader dead or alive.

Why should we at SPS care about this anniversary? Because in an unwitting and unintentional way, Poncho Villa (left) helped found Saint Paul's School.

According to historical records of the Christian Brothers of the former New Orleans - Santa Fe Province, Mexican revolutionaries besieged the city of Zacatecas in 1914, where the Brothers had conducted a school for six years. Two Brothers were killed and 14 were imprisoned. *On July 6, the sister of the finance minister to the First Chief of the Revolutionaries hosted Poncho Villa for dinner. During this meal she interceded for the Brothers. Her son had attended the Brothers' school at Monterey. Villa consented and the Brothers were conveyed by rail coach under guard to El Paso. The Jesuit priests took them in, gave them necessities and advised them to travel to Santa Fe. The French consul arranged for train tickets, and the Brothers arrived at Santa Fe on July 13. Some of these Brothers later returned to France. Others were sent to different American communities, while some remained and helped establish the new District of New Orleans-Santa Fe. The unknown Brother who wrote the Historical Sketch, awed by the courage and dedication of these Brothers, remarked, "... for a more exemplary or edifying body of religious men, it would be very difficult to find."*

Some of those same brothers, exiled from France in 1904 due to religious persecution and who went to Mexico only to be driven out in 1914, would eventually settle in Covington to assume ownership of Saint Paul's School. The rest, as they say, is history. Had Poncho Villa not released the Brothers from prison, they may never have found their way here.

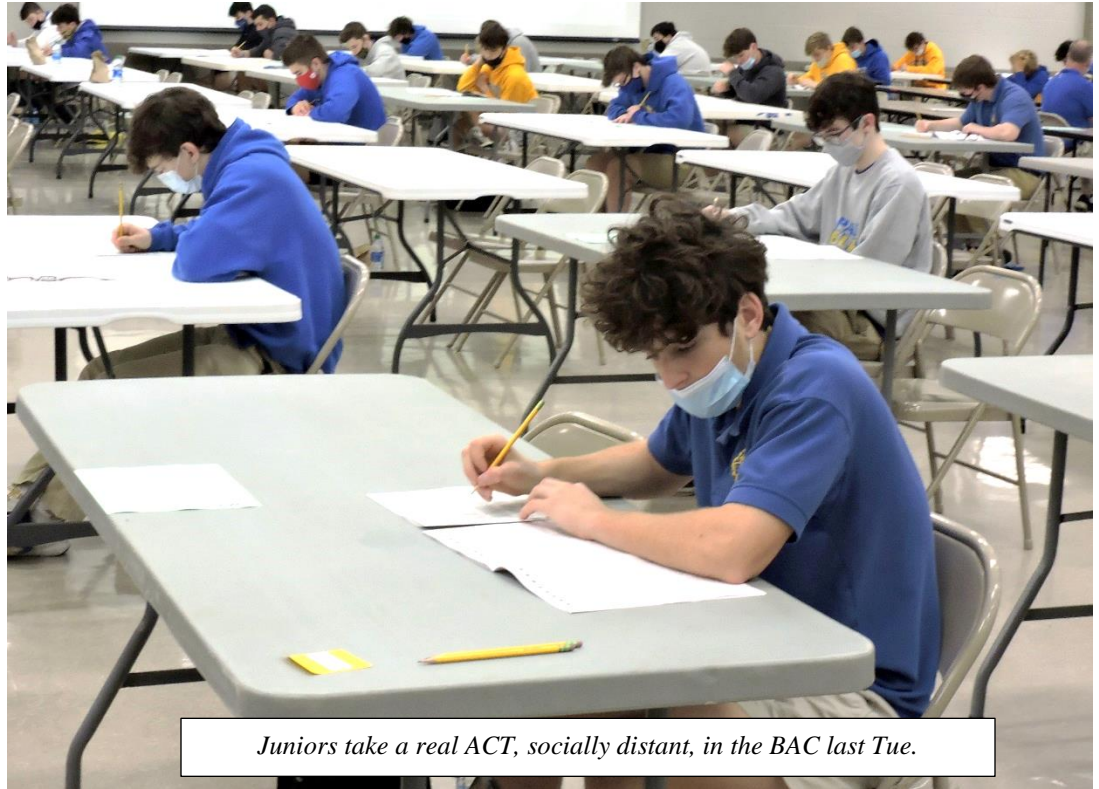
Scripture tells us that God's ways are not our ways. Could there be a more relevant example of how God brings good out of evil, strength out of weakness, salvation out of despair? Could the Hand of God be any more obvious in our school's existence? Could we have any doubt that our work today is God's work -- a continuation of that miraculous journey to Covington, those incredible stories of heroic men giving their lives for the sake of the Lasallian Mission?

Today, we are the ones entrusted with that Mission. Today, we must be faithful. Today, we are the cooperators with God in His plan of salvation. Today, we must honor our ancestors and, yes, thank Poncho Villa for granting the Brothers a release from prison and a safe journey from Mexico. Who knows what good will come from our work today -- even when times are tough and the future blurry? May our Lenten journey give us eyes of faith and merciful hearts!

- **Get Over It Day:** We all have something to "get over." Do it today! Can't think of something? Ask your friends what they tire of hearing you complain about!
- **Panic Day:** Who knew? Try to stay calm today although with all this activity, it will be hard.
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. Zachary (5:30)
- **Tennis:** Wolves v. F'bleau (PAC)
- **Basketball:** SPS in State Playoff Semi Final v. St. Augustine (noon in Cajun Dome in Lafayette) GEAUX Wolves!

Wed, Mar 10 (G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1876, the first telephone call occurs when Alexander Graham Bell says "Watson, come here; I want you."
- **Mario Day:** A day for all persons named Mario. Using the abbreviation for the month of March, i.e., MAR, with the day, i.e., 10, you get the name spelled out: MAR10 – who knew?
- **Middle Name Day:** How often do we think of our middle names? Discuss their history today.
- **Baseball:** 8th v. Franklinton (double header)



Thu, Mar 11 (D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1818, Mary Shelley publishes *Frankenstein*, called the first science fiction novel. BTW, Frankenstein is NOT the name of the creature! It's the name of the scientist who created the creature.
- **Johnny Appleseed Day:** Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman was a real person, a settler captivated by the movement west across the continent. As Johnny travelled west, he planted apple trees along the way, and sold trees to settlers. With every apple tree planted, the legend grew. Eat an apple today in honor of Johnny.
- **World Plumbing Day:** Appreciate plumbing today, something we all too often take for granted. And I guess we should give a shout out to plumbers, too! Where would we be without them?
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hammond
- **Track:** Jr Hi in Strawberry Relays
- **Baseball:** Var v. Salmen (Miley); 8th v. Bro. M
- **Golf:** Wolves at Money Hill

Fri, Mar 12 (A B; End of Third Quarter; dismissal at 11:15)

- **Virtual Grandparent Day Video will be posted.**
- **TDIH:** In 1622, Pope Gregory XV canonized a pretty extraordinary group of men and women, making them saints in the Roman Catholic Church: Teresa of Avila, Francis Xavier, Philip Neri, & Ignatius Loyola. May these saints pray for us in our work at SPS!
- **TDIH:** In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt gives his first "fireside chat" radio address. Today he would probably have sent out a tweet!

- **Genealogy Day:** Spend time today researching your ancestors or at least giving thanks for them!
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. Terrebone (Miley); Sub-Varsity v. Covington (double header)
- **Tennis:** Wolves in McGill – Toolen Tourney in Mobile through Saturday
- **Track:** Varsity in Judy Baehr Invitational at Walker High

Sat, Mar 13

- **TDIH:** In 2020, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards announces that all schools in LA will close for two weeks in response to the beginning of the COVID pandemic. Saint Paul's begins virtual schooling in less than 72 hours and receives positive responses from parents, students, and the community. The projected two-week closure would ultimately extend through the remainder of the school year, canceling all activities in the process.
- **TDIH:** In 2013, Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis I.
- **TDIH:** In 1942, the US Army begins training dogs for War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps."
- **Football Awards Ceremony (11 am in new gym)**
- **Rugby:** Wolves v. Bro. Martin at City Park
- **Baseball:** Sub-Varsity at Covington (10)
- **Baseball:** SPS v. St. Augustine (Avenger Field)
- **Golf at Beau Chene**
- **Lacrosse:** Wolves v. UMS - Wright Bulldogs in Mobile



Sun, Mar 14

- **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS THIS MORNING AT 2 AM! SPRING FORWARD!**
- **TDIH:** In 1879, Albert Einstein is born, in Ulm, Germany to a Jewish electrical engineer. Einstein's theories of special and general relativity drastically altered our view of the universe, and his work in particle/energy theory helped make possible quantum mechanics and, the atomic bomb.
- **Pi Day:** Pi, Greek letter (π), is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pi Day is celebrated around the world on March 14th (3/14) since $\pi = 3.1415926535...$ Get it?
- **Learn About Butterflies Day:** Some scientists think the health of the butterfly supply has implications for the health of the rest of the earth. Learn about the beautiful, helpful butterfly today!
- **Potato Chip Day:** Snack away!
- **Ask A Question Day:** Ask questions today!



Seniors enjoy Fun Lunch last Wed with food, friends, and games. Thanks, senior moms!

Rise Up, O Men of God

I call the following to your attention in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance.

ADMISSIONS FOR 21-22: Thank you for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at SPS! People are responding and next year's 8th grade class is almost full. If you know of someone thinking about SPS, have them initiate contact soon. Thanks!

ANNUAL APPEAL: Many thanks to those who have responded. If you can help at any amount, great. If not, I hope you will at least pray for us.

Monday: Beach Day 	Tuesday: Mardi Gras 	Wednesday: Christmas 
Thursday: BBQ dads 	Friday: Jersey Day 	*Students must wear school socks and shoes on dress down days

Students enjoyed Theme Dress Week last week!

ANNUAL APPEAL AND GRANDPARENTS: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

And no – I don't even mention the Annual Appeal in the Grandparent Day video.

ATTENDANCE: If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1980, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns**

BALLARD BRANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: Saint Paul's is grateful for the generosity of Ballard Brands. All of the coffee grounds from the PJ's Coffee on Hwy 21 near I-12 are being donated to the agriculture class project on composting, soil, and sustainability in agriculture. Thank you!!!



BAND HALL HISTORY: In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a “recreation center” for the recreational needs of the students living in La Salle Hall dorm. At a cost of \$15,000, a building was constructed to provide ping pong, pool, games and TV for boarders. Eventually, arcade-type games and a snack bar were added. In addition, a nine-hole miniature golf (putt-putt) course was built in front of the building, complete with lighting for nighttime use.

The facility, known simply as “the rec hall”, served the recreational needs of the boarding students until the summer of 1995, when, once again, the needs of the school dictated change. The overall population of the school was growing, but the population of the boarding program was shrinking. Accordingly, the decision was made to move the “rec hall” into La Salle Hall itself and to move the band hall (which was located on the third floor of Benilde Hall) into the rec hall building, thus allowing us to construct five more classrooms in Benilde Hall. The miniature golf course had also deteriorated and was removed.

The building has served the Marching Wolves well since that time, but, again, needs dictate change. In addition to overall building deterioration, our band programs have been expanding of late and now include concert, jazz, and drum corps components in addition to the renowned Marching Wolves, now almost one hundred members strong! They are deserving of a better facility. This new facility will provide expanded space, restrooms, acoustics, and aesthetics to our music program. Construction has begun and this \$2.3 million project will be completed in the summer of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.



DONATE BLOOD SUPPORT THE MARCHING WOLVES

HOW CAN I HELP?

Mention Saint Paul's Marching Wolves (Group # 213674) at the time of donation and our band will receive a \$5 credit.

The band with the most blood donors will receive a \$500 bonus. The runner up will receive a \$250 bonus.

Valid during month of February at any location of The Blood Center. Must be 16 and older to donate.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

1-800-86-BLOOD or
www.thebloodcenter.org

Mandeville Donation Center
4350 LA-22 (near Rouses)

Mon/Tues/Thurs 11-6
Wed 9-5
Fri 7-3
Sat 9-3



Support the Marching Wolves by helping fund the new band hall, already under construction!

We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.

This drive has been extended through March. Give the Gift of Life and help the band at the same time!

BOOK STORE: All school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Hours?

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am and 11:15 – 12:45 By appointment. Email spsbookstore16@gmail.com
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds fund activities throughout the year. **Recently, we received \$10,000 worth of Chromebooks for student use in main school building!**

CAFETERIA: A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT from the Federal School Lunch Program:

- ALL students may receive a FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH **throughout the rest of the school year!** Students MUST still obtain the meals with their ID card (no ID, no food) but it is FREE.
- Students MUST still order lunch during first block, but it will be FREE. Note: “extras” such as juice, ice cream, etc. are NOT free and students will be charged. The free lunch includes milk.
- This is a great opportunity for our students – and savings for you! And it helps keep the cafeteria staff employed! Encourage your son to take advantage of this!

CAFETERIA FREE BREAKFAST/LUNCH CLARIFICATION: ONLY the basic lunch / breakfast is free. If students purchase “extras”, they will be charged for these. Make sure your son understands this policy.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR (2021-22): Some important dates:

Mon - Tue, Aug 2 & 3	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 4	Teacher Prep Day
Thu, Aug 5	School Opens with a full day of instruction
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 8	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 8	Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00 -- Tentative)
Sat, Oct 30	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 08	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 29	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Mon, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King Holiday
Fri, Feb 25	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 28 - Mar 04	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 07	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 11	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 15 – 22	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 25	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 27 – 29	Senior Final Exams
Sat, May 14	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tue – Fri, May 17 - 20	Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
Mon, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tue, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day



CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2021 assumes that we are in full operation. Naturally, any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or acts of nature may result in alteration.

- Fri, Mar 12 End of Third Quarter
- Fri – Fri Apr 2-9 Easter Holidays
- Mon, Apr 12 Classes resume from
- Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30 Senior Final Exams
- Sat, May 15 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 18-21 Final Exams for all others, 8 - 11
- Mon, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Day
- Tues, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Day

CAR BURGLARIES: Mayor Mark Johnson and Covington Police Chief Culotta recently sent an email informing us that car burglaries are rising. Lock your car and do not leave valuables visible.

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING: Only Saint Paul's outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

COVID-19 VACCINE: I am most grateful to the overwhelming number of you who received the vaccine. And, of course, I am incredibly grateful to Braswell's Drugs for facilitating the administration.

DRIVING: I call the following to your attention:

- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let's start 2021 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!
- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.



***Congratulations to the Division 1
State Champion Wrestling Wolves!***

FIVE CORE DINNER: Please consider joining us in this innovative and enjoyable way to both help SPS and learn about Lasallian Catholic Education here at SPS. Here is a link for more info: <https://www.stpauls.com/support/events/five-core-dinner/>

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS DEPT: Last week the Archdiocese of New Orleans announced that Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Belle Chasse will close at the end of this school year due to low enrollment and mounting debt. OLPH is the only Catholic school in Plaquemines Parish and has been in operation for the past 60 years. OLPH joins the growing number (over 100 this past year) of Catholic schools across the country that have closed. At times like these, I re-read English poet John Donne's immortal poem: *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. I re-print it here: *"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee."*



Pre-freshmen taste the ice cream they made in science class!

GOOD NEWS DEPT: Last week we received our quarterly donation from Amazon Smile: **\$557.77** Always remember to choose SPS when ordering from Amazon Smile. While \$557.77 won't keep the school open, every little bit helps.

GRANDPARENT DAY – VIRTUALLY: Our annual GP Day is ordinarily held at the end of the first quarter. This year, due to the pandemic, we moved it to the end of the third quarter, praying that things would back to normal by then. Well, things are not back to normal, but the Mothers' Club felt it important to hold some sort of event, so we have prepared a virtual event which will be posted on our website this Friday. We are encouraging the boys who have grandparents to make a "date" with them, either in person or virtually, and view the recording, which will contain a prayer service, some tributes, and some words from yours truly.

GROOMING: Our students are looking a bit sloppy of late: haircuts are needed, shaving is not being done, shirt tails are untucked, non-SPS cold weather wear is being worn. We spoke to the students on Friday and alerted them that we will become much more vigilant in enforcing our dress code. Parents – please support

us in this and check your son's appearance before he leaves for school.

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: Don't forget these painless ways to help:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) & SPS receives 5% of purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

HONEY SALE: We now have a Beekeeping Club! Yes, really! And they are selling honey. The club is called SASS – which stands for Saint Paul's Apian Student Society! Very clever! The honey comes from hives

in Abita and has received rave reviews. Proceeds will go towards acquiring more hives and expanding the beekeeping club's operation.

- 1 pint = \$14/pint
- 2+ pints = \$12/pint
- Half pint = \$8
- Note: The price includes a \$1 deposit on the mason jar.
- If you are interested in buying honey, please text Dr. Shawn Mullet at 617-388-6643. If you know anyone beyond the Saint Paul's community who might be interested, please spread the word. Thank you for your support. By helping SASS, you are helping SPS students connect to the natural environment and experience what it means to run a small business in the community.

LAST WEEK:

- **Baseball:** A dramatic win and a tough loss.
- **Basketball:** A dramatic win v. John Curtis; on to the state semi-final game in Lafayette on Tuesday!
- **Bowling:** Currently in first place in the District.
- **Dress Down Week:** For the most part, it went well. As always, a few guys pushed the envelope (e.g: Me: how does what you are wearing fit the Christmas theme? Student: I got this for Christmas.
- **Father-Son:** This annual event, sponsored by the Dads' Club, was limited to seniors and dads this year due to COVID. A good time was passed by all.
- **Five Guys:** Thanks for all who supported this community event.
- **Golf:** Team repeated as champs of Basile High Invitational!
- **KAHOOT:** My class thoroughly enjoyed Friday's Kahoot. And so did I. Thanks, Student Council!
- **Lacrosse:** Wolves defeated a tough Byrd squad 9 - 8 on Fri night. Congrats! But Var & JV had a rough day on Sat, losing to Jesuit. Jr Hi beat Jesuit but lost to St. Thomas More.
- **Rugby:** Wolves won in Houma, 33-26!!
- **Senior Fun Lunch:** The skies cleared, the sun shone, the music played and the boys had fun. Thanks, senior moms, for ALL of your work.
- **Tennis:** I think we competed but didn't get results.
- **Testing:** ACT for juniors and Pre-ACT for freshmen went well last week. Thanks, counselors, for efficient and safe administration of these important tests to our students.
- **Track:** Both the JH and Varsity Wolves placed second out of 10 and 9 teams respectively this week. The JH Meet was named the Trafton Academy - Ponchatoula JH Invitational; Varsity/JV - The Ponchatoula Invitational.



Preston dresses in purple, green & gold for Mardi Gras day!

LENTEN PRACTICES: The guidelines for Catholics: Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years or older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays of Lent. The determination of certain days as obligatory days of penance should not be understood as limiting the occasions for Christian penance.

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS: All nine SPS National Merit Semifinalists (the most of any school in St. Tammany!) have been named Finalists in the scholarship program and will advance in the competition for scholarship awards. Over 1.5 million students entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program and only 15,000 met all requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition: **Ben Broussard, Lucca Ferrante, Gabriel Gros, Axel Henderson, Jake Holincheck, Hunter Kergosien, Davis Lagarde, Trey Paine, and Brady Talley.** Wow! Congrats to them – and their teachers!



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: An email from a prospective parent who toured the school last week:

We toured the school last week and couldn't have been more impressed. We are looking for a safe and highly educational place that our boys can attend for their high school years and we feel that St. Paul's can provide that experience. All of the boys we were introduced to on the tour were very well mannered and kind. They showed the highest respect and we were very taken by it. We hope our boys are granted the opportunity to attend. Yes, we will offer them admission!

RETREATS: You've likely noticed that level retreats have been absent from the calendar. We are now confident in our ability to safely hold retreat experiences for all levels. Here are the dates for the various levels. Details will follow from Campus Ministry.

- **March 24th** (Pre-Freshmen)
- ***March 24th-26th** (Seniors Pt 1)
- **March 31st** (Freshmen)
- ***March 31-April 2** (Seniors Pt 2)
- **April 13th** (Sophomores)
- **April 14th** (Juniors)



SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the one-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledges. Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets." The Mayor is asking everyone to "relax, take a deep breath and slow down. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Reinforce this with your sons whenever possible. And set a good example yourself!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- **Parents:** stress with your sons the consequences of inappropriate social media posting. Cyber-bulling is against the law and has legal implications. And the school will take strong measures .
- **Students:** THINK before you post!

ST. TAMMANY PARISH: The St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce released the following last week:

- *St. Tammany Parish's unemployment rate is at its lowest since February 2020 according to the St. Tammany Corporation in its February edition of Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany released last week.*

At 4.7%, this is the third consecutive month that St. Tammany's unemployment rate has trended downward, continuing to make it consistently lower than the state, regional and national average.

- *St. Tammany has recorded more than 23,000 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and 474 COVID-related deaths. As the nationwide effort to vaccinate eligible individuals continues, 13.1% of adults have received vaccinations, and around 55% of adults report that they plan to get the vaccine once it is available.*
- *Consumer spending in St. Tammany has recovered compared to the same time last year, while small businesses revenues show a much rockier improvement and remain down more than half.*
- *Nationwide, more than a third of adults have struggled to pay for basic living expenses, and another third project that they will experience housing insecurity in the next two months as Americans await a second federal stimulus package.*
- *As gas prices rise nationwide, Greater New Orleans prices continue lower than the state, region and nation.*

STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL: Ben's Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. You are encouraged to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. The space will be supervised by faculty.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. RAENELL HOUSTON: From Dr. Houston to all Catholic schools: *I respectfully request that you use prudent judgement and follow all civil parish guidelines for... events that take place outside of the regular school day and outside of typical school operations. If compliance with local civil guidance cannot be guaranteed and/or an event is likely to lead to a high risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the event should be rescheduled for a later date when it is safer to do so.*



Seniors enjoy Fun Lunch on Wednesday.

TEEN LIFE COUNTS – 8th GRADE EDITION: Because of the exploding suicide rate in St. Tammany Parish, St. Paul's takes this issue especially seriously. We strive to do everything possible to keep our students safe. Our sophomores have already participated in Teen Life Counts. We believe it is a beneficial experience for both them and their families. In view of recent events, however, the counseling department has arranged for portions of the program to be delivered to our current eighth graders during the month of March. 8th grade parents and students have been notified via an email from Gina Hall. This is being proactive, and I commend the counselors for taking this step. Know that we take ANY hint of self-harm by a student very seriously, with protocols in place for handling the matter. For additional information about Teen Life Counts, visit <http://www.jfsneworleans.org/programs-services/teen-life-counts/>

TUTORING: Third quarter is almost over! **Tutoring offered by National Honor Society members is underway and occurs every day at lunch in the library for the remainder of the school year. All students are welcome to utilize this free tutoring service.** Essay proofreading services also provided. Encourage your son to use this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so!**

UNIFORM SHIRTS: We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking.

VAPING: ALERT! VAPING IS ON THE RISE! After having made headway against this insidious habit, we are discovering increased levels of usage by some students. The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, all too often ignore the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can't police outside of school – parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

STUDENT COURSE SELECTIONS FOR 2021-22

(Yes, I know this is not in alphabetical order but it's important)

On Thursday and Friday of this week, we will hold scheduling assemblies for returning students to choose their courses for next year. If a student is not registered for next year, he will not be allowed to select courses – and some courses have limited enrollment.

If your son is not returning and you have not informed me, please have the courtesy of doing so.

Thank you for your understanding.

WEEKLY HUMOR: In honor

Day on 3/14, here are some math jokes. You may need a student to explain a couple of them!

FMWs finally back in action at a virtual math tournament! GEAUX FMWs!

of Pi



- *What's an opinion without 3.14? It's just an onion!*
- *Why should you never talk to Pi? Because he'll go on and on and on and on and on*
- *What is the official animal of Pi Day? The pi-thon.*
- *What was Sir Isaac Newton's favorite dessert? Apple pi.*
- *What do you get when you take the sun and divide its circumference by its diameter? Pi in the sky.*
- *What do you get when you take green cheese and divide its circumference by its diameter? Moon Pi.*
- *Come to the nerd side. We have pi.*
- *When students saw the math teacher holding graph paper, they knew she was plotting something!*
- *What's a math teacher's favorite sum? Summer!*
- *What did the calculator say to the student? You can always count on me.*
- *There are three types of people in the world...Those who can count, and those who can't!*
- *Why was the student upset when his math teacher called him average? It was a mean thing to say!*
- *Why was the geometry lecture so long? The professor kept going off on a tangent!*
- *Why didn't the quarter roll down the hill with the nickel? Because it had more cents.*
- *What did the students call their algebra teacher after he spent all summer at the beach? A tangent.*
- *Why couldn't 4 get into the club? The bouncer thought he was 2 square!*
- *Why couldn't the angle get a loan? His parents wouldn't cosine.*
- *What do you call two dudes who bond over math? Algebros!*
- *Where do math teachers go on vacation? To Times Square!*
- *Those parallel lines have so much in common... It's a shame they'll never meet...*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

YEARBOOKS: March is last month to purchase a yearbook for \$65. Price goes up to \$75 starting in April.

- Go to www.yearbookforever.com
- Search for "Saint Paul's" exactly as displayed here.
- Select "Purchase a 2020-21 Product" in the list.
- Select "Buy a yearbook" option on the right side of the page.

- Follow the rest of the on-screen instructions and submit your results.
- ***Seniors do not purchase a yearbook. The yearbook is included in tuition.**



A LOOK AHEAD AND SECOND SEMESTER PERIOD ROTATION: Here is the period rotation for most of second semester to use when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. This is subject to change if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur:

MARCH

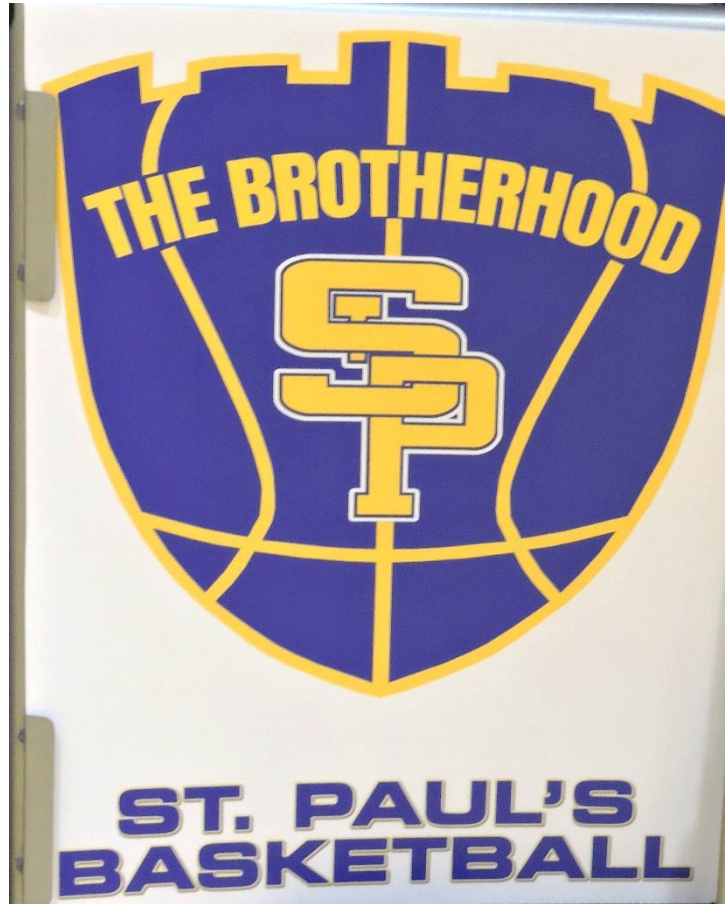
- 8 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
- 10 – GABC – ~~ACT for 11th~~
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – AB –End of Q1
- 15 – CDEF – 9:00AM Late Start
- 16 – GABC – Pack Time
- 17 – DEFG – ~~8th Grade Retreat~~
- 18 – ABCD
- 19 – EFGA – Mass/Snack Day
- 22 – BCDE
- 23 – FGAB- President’s Assembly
- 24 – CDEF – Senior Retreat (beginning during F)
- ~~8th Grade on Retreat~~
- 25 – GABC – Senior Retreat
- 26 – DEFG – Senior Retreat – *Late start for vaccine*
- 29 – ABCD
- 30 – EFGA – Virtual Mandatum
- 31 – BCDE – Senior Retreat (beginning during E)
- ~~9th Grade Retreat~~

APRIL

1 – FGAB – Senior Retreat
2 – Good Friday
12 – CDEF
13 – GABC – 8th HR Breakfast/10th Grade Retreat
14 – DEFG – 9th HR Breakfast/11th Grade Retreat
15 – ABCD – President's Assembly
16 – EFGA – 10th HR Breakfast/Legacy student lunch
19 – BCDE
20 – FGAB – Pack Time (last for seniors)
21 – CDEF -11th HR Breakfast
22 – GABC – 12th HR Breakfast
23 – DEFG
26 – ABCD
27 – EFGA – President's Assembly – Stuff the Bus
28 – BCDE – Senior Exams
29 – FGAB – Senior Exams
30 – CDEF – Senior Exams

MAY

3 – GABC
4 – DEFG – Pack Time
5 – ABCD
6 – EFGA
7 – BCDE
10 – FGAB
11 – CDEF – President's Assembly
12 – GABC
13 – DEFG – Academic Awards TBD
14 – ABCD – Athletic Awards TBD
17 – EFG
18 – Exams 8-11th
19 – Exams 8-11th
20 – Exams 8-11th
21 – Exams 8-11th



Whew! Enough for now. Even though it's the second week of March 2021, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family in these challenging times! Again, thanks for being part of the 2020-21 edition of SPS.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FS

Praying for Lenten Grade for All as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



...by doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God, beseeching our Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the Lasallian Mission, living courageously and respecting all people



RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD



